(d) the measures taken by his Ministry to prevent such environmental disasters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Only two minor incidents of fire on offshore rigs have been reported in the last one year.

(d) The rigs are provided with fire extinguishing systems of international standard.

Financial Performance

1767. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted on the financial performance of States and Centre during the Eighth Plan Period;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure satisfactory performance by the States during the Ninth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). No Sir. However, Planning Commission has conducted a Mid-Term Appraisal of the performance of the Eighth Five year Plan in which performance of the States as well as the the Centre has been reviewed by the Commission. The review showed that the Central Sector outlay would be achieved more or less but there would be some shortfall in the achievement of outlays in the case of States. Copy of the Draft Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eighth Five Year Plan 1996-97 has already been placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) Ninth Five Year Plan is still under formulation.

Navi Nagar Thermal Power Project

1768. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether global tenders were invited for Navi Nagar Thermal Power Project recently; and

(b) if so, the names of the companies which submitted their tenders for the above power project and the name of the company which has been awarded the tender?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., on behalf of Ministry of Power, floated an enquiry for 'pre-qualification' of project developers for setting up a coal-based thermal power project of 2,000 MW (4x500 MW) capacity at Nabi Nagar, through international competitive bidding.

(b) Tenders have not been submitted by the prospective developers so far.

[Translation]

Urban Projects of Maharashtra

1769 SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some urban development projects of Maharashtra are pending with the Union Government for its approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all projects have been cleared; and

(d) if not, the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT), the State level Sanctioning Committee is competent to approve IDSMT Projects.

(b) to (d). During 1995-96, the State of Maharashtra was allocated six towns for coverage in 1995-96 and 1996-97 under IDSMT. However, the State level Sanctioning Committee approved projects for 10 towns. Accordingly Central assistance could be releassed for the first six towns. The remaining four towns : Amaravati, Shahada, Navapur and Kurundwad; though cleared by the State Committee could not be provided Central funds during 1995-96. These towns are in excess of the allocation provided to the State for 1995-96. In view of this, it is not possible to indicate at this point of time when Central assistance would be released to these towns. Release of funds for additional towns during 1996-97 would depend on the availability of surplus funds after meeting the commitments of on-going projects, availability of State share and submission of utilisation certificates by the State Government for the funds released under IDMST earlier.

[English]

Dispute Between Rajasthan and NTPC

1770. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any dispute between Rajasthan and NTPC in regard to tariff for gas based power stations; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Electricity Authority after detailed discussion with NTPC and all beneficiary SEBs including Rajasthan SEB has since finalised the tariff of NTPC gas based power stations. CEA has now submitted its recommendations to the Ministry of Power for issue of the Notification.

Wasteland Development by Private Sector

1771. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to associate Private Sector in wasteland development;

(b) if so, the details and the terms and conditions laid down for the joint venture;

(c) whether any suggestions/schemes have been received by the Government from the Private Sector for development of wasteland; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). From 1994-95 a Central Sector Scheme—Investment Promotional Scheme for Development of Non-Forest Wastelands (IFS) is under implementation. This Scheme has provision for involving private sector in the development of wastelands. The IFS is designed to facilitate/attract/channelise/mobilise resources from financial institutions, banks, corporate bodies including user industries and other entrepreneurs for development of wastelands in non-forest areas belonging to Central and State Governments, Panchayats, village communities, private farmers, etc.

Under the IPS, promotional subsidy/grant is provided subject to a maximum of Rs. 25.00 lakhs or 25% of the total cost of the project as approved and firmed up by the financial institutions/banks, whichever is less. Besides, project formulation assistance for preparation of bankable/viable projects at the rate of 1% of project cost is admissible to generate projects.

(c) and (d). Some of the important suggestions made, include (i) the district-wise information on wastelands may be made available at State/district level, (ii) wide publicity should be given and awareness campaign raised vigorously on wastelands development, (iii) allotment of wastelands to Private Sector on lease basis which falls exclusively under the purview of State Governments.

Kandla-Bhatinda Project

1772. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the IOC has claimed over a hundred crore damages from the Skodaexport for delay in the execution of Kandla-Bhatinda product pipeline and that Skoda has given a counter claim for hampering the project implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the factual position; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to solve the controversy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). Due to uncertainty in the execution of balance jobs of Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline by the composite works contractor M/s. Skodaexport Co. Ltd., the bank guarantees of M/s. Skodaexport have been invoked by IOC for non-performance and recovery of unadjusted advances towards mobilisation and partial commissioning for getting the job done at the risk and cost of the contractor as per the terms of the contract.

[Translation]

Losses in Transmission and Distribution of Electricity

1773. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the losses of electricity in its distribution by the various State Electricity Boards in the country is more than that of other countries of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of electricity losses in transmission and distribution by each electricity board;

(d) the estimated average loss of electricity in distribution and transmission in other developed countries; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to check these transmission and distribution losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The transmission and distribution losses in the country have been 21.13% during 1994-95 and are higher than most of the other countries of the world. Statements I and II indicating the % age of T and D losses in the developed and developing countries are enclosed.

(c) The statement showing % age T and D losses for the SEB's/EDs for the year 1990-91 to 1994-95 is enclosed in the Statement-III.